

**NONPROVISIONAL APPLICATION FOR LETTERS PATENT
UNITED STATES OF AMERICA**

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Be it known that I, **FRANK FREDERICK**, residing at **917
Cruce Lake Drive, Hoschton, GA 30548-3458**, a citizen of
10 the United States, have invented certain new and useful
improvements in a

15 **HUNTING PACK STOOL AND METHOD OF USE THEREOF**

20 of which the following is a specification.

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HUNTING PACK STOOL AND METHOD OF USE THEREOF

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TECHNICAL FIELD

The present invention relates generally to hunting accessories, and more specifically to a hunting pack stool and method of use thereof, wherein the present invention 10 provides a portable and convenient seating apparatus and packable unit adapted to carry an assortment of hunting and camping equipment.

BACKGROUND OF THE INVENTION

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While harvesting game, hunters must often spend long periods of time in a stationary position, remaining nearly motionless to avoid making noise, so as to not frighten the animals being hunted. As such, hunters often experience 20 discomfort and fatigue remaining standing for long periods of time, and it is desirable that hunters be able to sit comfortably during such periods. Consequently, hunters have often carried various types of seating apparatus into the field for their comfort and convenience.

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For instance, there are backpack devices that provide integral seats, but during use, such devices rest on the ground. With respect to a device, such as that disclosed in U.S. Patent Appl. No. 2002/0113103 to O'Hare, the seat portion is in contact with the ground, requiring a hunter to sit in an uncomfortable cross-legged position. Such devices also are not desirable during cold weather due to the transfer of heat away from the hunter to the colder ground with which the seat is in contact.

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Other devices comprise folding chairs and/or folding legs and, thus, require manipulation before they can be utilized, following removal from the back of a hunter. Examples of such folding chairs are shown in U.S. Patent No. 4,773,574 to Burgard, U.S. Patent No. 6,347,406 to Jones et al., U.S. Design Patent No. 284,910 to Handy, and U.S. Design Patent No. 338,779 to Albert. Still other devices require fabrication from a plurality of components to provide a framework that can be carried upon a hunter's back and to support a seat component, such as shown by U.S. Patent No. 4,602,698 to Grant. It is disadvantageous for a hunter in the field to have to assemble his seating device, thereby causing extensive motion and noise.

Other devices include storage areas, some located under a seat component, others located at the sides thereof, such as shown by U.S. Patent No. 5,318,342 to 5 Hale. Such devices lack a means for attaching a sleeping bag or other such devices carried externally.

Yet other devices must be secured either to a tree, such as shown by U.S. Patent No. 4,601,364, supported from 10 overhead, such as shown by U.S. Design Patent No. 356,692 to Dawson, or attached to the ground, typically via a pole that is inserted into the ground such as is shown by U.S. Design Patent No. 309,989 to Gotts. The attachment to a support requires motion and noise and is thus 15 disadvantageous when a hunter is endeavoring to avoid frightening game.

Still other devices combine a spartan framework to form a portable seat and carrier such as shown by U.S. 20 Design Patent No. 306,379 to Kobasic. Such a device lacks the provision of a comfortable seating surface for a hunter.

All of the above devices fail to provide a comfortable seating surface, providing full support, off the ground, in a packable form that can both be leaned against a vertical surface, or that can stand independently. They further 5 lack the ability to facilitate quick confinement of a sleeping bag or similar large equipment by the pack and stool combination in combination with additional storage areas, and particularly lack a kickstand support.

10 Therefore, it is readily apparent that there is a need for a hunting stool that can readily be carried into the field to permit a hunter to remain comfortable during long periods of relative motionlessness. There is a further need for such an apparatus that is light in weight, yet 15 capable of carrying many of the items that a hunter might require during periods when the hunter is harvesting game. There is yet a further need for a device that can be readily set up and utilized without excessive motion or noise. There is an additional need for a device that can 20 be utilized in a leaning position against an existing support, yet in the absence of such support, has a facility for independent support, such as a kickstand. There is still a further need for such an apparatus that can be used

by a hunter during seasons for various different game, such as deer hunting season and turkey hunting season. As will be more fully detailed hereinbelow, it is to the provision of such an apparatus that the present invention is

5 directed.

BRIEF SUMMARY OF THE INVENTION

Briefly described, in a preferred embodiment, the present invention overcomes the above-mentioned disadvantages and meets the recognized need for such a apparatus by providing embodiments directed to a packable camouflaged seating apparatus, wherein the apparatus comprises a single planar surface having a seat attached thereto, along with various storage compartments. A lower section of the planar surface forms legs to raise the seat area from the ground, and the apparatus can be leaned against a surface such as a tree, allowing a hunter to sit comfortably. The apparatus further includes straps to facilitate carrying upon the back of a hunter or other user for transporting to and from a hunting site.

More specifically, the present invention is a camouflaged pack stool for a hunter, wherein the pack stool has a backplane portion comprising legs and back, a seating area and storage compartments. The present invention is 5 particularly advantageous in use and application due to its ability to permit a hunter to carry a seating apparatus to a remote area while retaining a camouflaged appearance. While being transported by a hunter, the apparatus can be held on a hunter's back in the same fashion as a backpack 10 and further has a cover sheet of material that can be unrolled to cover the exposed rear surface with a color other than that of the overall camouflage. Such a color change is desirable during big game hunting season when hunters wear orange clothing or the like in order to be 15 readily identifiable.

Upon reaching the hunting site, the apparatus is placed on the ground and leaned against a tree or other such support, wherein the base of the planar surface rests 20 against the ground and the top of the planar surface rests against the tree to prevent the apparatus from falling. The camouflage appearance of the apparatus allows it and its seated occupant to blend into the surrounding foliage.

In an alternate embodiment of the present invention, a kickstand device is attached, wherein the pack stool can be positioned without need of an additional surface to lean 5 against. In such fashion, a hunter can utilize the pack stool apparatus of the present invention in areas lacking a suitable leaning surface. The kickstand can further be utilized to stand the pack stool upright while not being utilized.

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Accordingly, a feature and advantage of the present invention is its ability to provide a hunter with a comfortable seating surface during periods of immobility.

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Another feature and advantage of the present invention is its ability to be carried as a backpack by a hunter.

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Still another feature and advantage of the present invention is its ability to carry a large quantity and variety of objects typically required by a hunter during the harvesting of game.

Yet another feature and advantage of the present invention is its incorporation of a kickstand to permit unassisted retention in an upright position.

5 Yet still another feature and advantage of the present invention is its ability to provide a warning coloration to identify the hunter to others in the field.

10 A further feature and advantage of the present invention is its low material cost and ease of manufacture.

15 These and other features and advantages of the present invention will become more apparent to one skilled in the art from the following description and claims when read in light of the accompanying drawings.

BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE DRAWINGS

20 The present invention will be better understood by reading the Detailed Description of the Preferred and Selected Alternate Embodiments with reference to the accompanying drawing figures, in which like reference

numerals denote similar structure and refer to like elements throughout, and in which:

5 **FIG. 1** is a side view of a hunting pack stool apparatus according to a preferred embodiment of the present invention;

10 **FIG. 2A** is a front view of a hunting pack stool apparatus according to a preferred embodiment of the present invention;

FIG. 2B is a detail view of the hunting pack stool apparatus of **FIG. 2A** after unrolling of a cover sheet;

15 **FIG. 3** is a rear view of a hunting pack stool apparatus according to a preferred embodiment of the present invention; and

20 **FIG. 4** is a detail view of the hunting pack stool apparatus of **FIG. 1** according to an alternate embodiment of the present invention.

DETAILED DESCRIPTION OF THE PREFERRED
AND SELECTED ALTERNATIVE EMBODIMENTS

In describing the preferred and selected alternate
5 embodiments of the present invention, as illustrated in
FIGS. 1-4, specific terminology is employed for the sake of
clarity. The invention, however, is not intended to be
limited to the specific terminology so selected, and it is
to be understood that each specific element includes all
10 technical equivalents that operate in a similar manner to
accomplish similar functions.

Referring now to **FIGS. 1-3**, the present invention in a
preferred embodiment is a packable hunting stool apparatus
15 10, comprising, in general, backplane 20, seat 60, and
backrest 70. Backplane 20 preferably has upper section 30,
lower section 40 and leg section 50, wherein leg section 50
preferably forms a lower termination of backplane 20 and
wherein leg section 50 comprises right leg 45a and left leg
20 45b. Frame pad 170 is preferably carried by backplane 20,
wherein frame pad 170 is preferably constructed from a
dense foam material suitable for providing a comfortable

surface for a hunter to lean against, such as, for exemplary purposes only, foam rubber.

Seat 60 preferably has cover 80 thereon, wherein cover 80 has seat pad 85 thereunder, and wherein seat pad 85 is affixed to seat platform 87. Seat 60 is preferably constructed from a dense foam material suitable for providing a comfortable seating surface for a hunter to sit upon, such as, for exemplary purposes only, foam rubber.

10 Right support 88a and left support 88b extend from front edge 89 of seat platform 87 to leg section 50. Right support 88a is attached to front edge 89 of seat platform 87 and attached to right leg 45a. Left support 88b is attached to front edge 89 of seat platform 87 and attached

15 to left leg 45b.

Equipment is preferably stored in side storage compartments 210a and 210b, and/or lower storage compartment 90. Accordingly, preferably located at sides 20 213a and 213b of backplane 20 are side storage compartments 210a and 210b, wherein side storage compartments 210a and 210b are cylindrical in shape, similar to duffel bags. Side storage compartments 210a and 210b have each one end

211a and **211b** open, respectively, which ends **211a** and **211b**, respectively, are secured via drawstrings **212a** and **212b**, respectively.

5 Storage section **90** is preferably located below seat **60**, wherein storage section **90** has storage cover **100** having zipper **92** therein, whereby storage section **90** is accessible via zipper **92**. Storage cover **100** of storage section **90** covers right support **88a** and left support **88b** and storage section **90** is fixably attached to seat **60** and to top **52** of leg section **50**, thereby fully enclosing storage section **90**. Bottom **94** of storage section **90** has first eye **120a** and second eye **120b** positioned thereon, wherein first eye **120a** and second eye **120b** provide attachment points for securing 10 devices, such as, for exemplary purposes only, bungee straps **110** and **112**, as set forth more fully below. Third eye **120c** and fourth eye **120d** are positioned on right leg **45a** and left leg **45b**, respectively and provide additional attachment points for bungee straps **110** and **112**. First eye 15 **120a**, second eye **120b**, third eye **120c** and fourth eye **120d** form a rectangular pattern covering bottom **94** of storage section **90**.

Storage section **90** may be further utilized to carry sleeping bag **S** or similar roll-shaped object, wherein sleeping bag **S** is restrained via elastic members, such as, for exemplary purposes only, bungee straps **110** and **112**.

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First bungee strap **110** preferably has first end **132a** and second end **132b**, wherein first hook **130a** is attached to first end **132a** and second hook **130b** is attached to second end **132b**. Second bungee strap **112** has first end **142a** and second end **142b**, wherein first hook **140a** is attached to first end **142a** and second hook **140b** is attached to second end **142b**.

In order to store sleeping bag **S** under storage area **90**, first hook **130a** is preferably inserted into first eye **120a** and first bungee strap **110** extends across bottom **94** of storage section **90** over sleeping bag **S**, wherein second hook **130b** is preferably inserted into fourth eye **120d**. First hook **140a** is inserted into second eye **120b** and second bungee strap **112** extends across bottom **94** of storage section **90** over sleeping bag **S**, wherein second hook **140b** is inserted into third eye **120c**. It should be recognized by those skilled in the art that other configurations may be

desirable, depending upon application and articles to be carried.

In use, apparatus 10 is preferably transported to a
5 desired location by a user via straps 180a and 180b passing over the user's shoulders, wherein pads 195a and 195b are placed on user's shoulders, and wherein belt 202 is passed around user's chest. For added comfort, the user may hold tabs 200a and 200b. Straps 180a and 180b are secured to
10 right upper mounting point 230a and left upper mounting point 230b, respectively, wherein straps 180a and 180b are further attached to right lower mounting point 190a and left lower mounting point 190b, respectively. As described above, the user's sleeping bag may be transported
15 coincidentally with apparatus 10 via confinement by bungee straps 110 and 112 against lower storage section 90.

During transport, and particularly in certain game seasons, it is desirable to utilize a brightly discernible
20 color to identify a hunter, such as, for exemplary purposes only, bright orange during big game hunting season. For use during such times, a means is required for changing the

from a camouflage color to such a brightly discernible color.

Accordingly, roll cover sheet 150 is preferably carried by top section 30 of backplane 20, wherein roll cover sheet 150 comprises a sheet of material having camouflage coloring on the obverse thereof, and a distinguishable color, such as, for exemplary purposes only, bright orange, blue, green or red on the reverse thereof. Roll cover sheet 150 is secured via first tie 155a and second tie 155b, wherein first tie 155a secures first end 160a of roll cover sheet 150 and second tie 155b secures second end 160b of roll cover sheet 150. First tie 155a and second tie 155b may comprise, for exemplary purposes only, string ties, hook-and-loop fasteners, bungee straps, elastic bands, or the like. As shown in FIG. 2B, roll cover sheet 150 is preferably deployed by loosening ties 155a and 155b, whereby roll cover 150 falls forward over backrest 70 and seat 60, thereby providing a large expanse of color for immediate recognition when viewing a hunter from the rear.

Once a hunter reaches a selected site, apparatus 10 is preferably removed and placed on ground surface G, wherein legs 45a and 45b are preferably proximal to, and in contact with, ground surface G. Upper section 30 of apparatus 10 5 may then be leaned against tree T, thereby providing support via ground surface G and tree T. A hunter then may sit on seat 60 of apparatus 10, leaning back against section 70 to assume a comfortable position. Upon arrival of game in the vicinity, the hunter can selectively observe 10 or harvest the game. If the hunter wishes to remain quiet and motionless to observe game, the hunter will remain comfortably seated on apparatus 10. Alternately, should the hunter desire to take the game, the hunter can shoot a weapon from the seated position, or can stand and shoot.

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Referring now more specifically to FIG. 4, illustrated therein is a detail view of an alternate embodiment of device 10, wherein the alternate embodiment shown in FIG. 4 is substantially equivalent in form and function to that of 20 the preferred embodiment detailed and illustrated in FIGS. 1-3 except as hereinafter specifically referenced. Specifically, the alternate embodiment of FIG. 4 comprises a packable hunting stool apparatus 10 having kickstand 400,

wherein kickstand 400 can be moved from position **A** to position **B**, and wherein kickstand 400 permits packable hunting stool apparatus 10 to stand freely, without the need to lean against tree T. When a hunter wishes to 5 utilize apparatus 10 in a clear area away from trees or other support surface, the hunter can extend kickstand 400, thereby providing a third leg for support of apparatus 10 in an upright aspect. When a tree is available to lean apparatus 10, or when a hunter wishes to transport 10 apparatus 10, kickstand 400 can be retracted.

In an alternate embodiment of the present invention, seat 60 is configured and adapted to fold upward against upper section 30 of backplane 20.

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In yet another embodiment of the present invention, legs 45a and 45b can be extended to provide height adjustment for the hunter's comfort.

20 The foregoing description and drawings comprise illustrative embodiments of the present invention. Having thus described preferred embodiments of the present invention, it should be noted by those skilled in the art

that the within disclosures are exemplary only, and that various other alternatives, adaptations, and modifications may be made within the scope of the present invention. Merely listing or numbering the steps of a method in a 5 certain order does not constitute any limitation on the order of the steps of that method. Many modifications and other embodiments of the invention will come to mind to one skilled in the art to which this invention pertains having the benefit of the teachings presented in the foregoing 10 descriptions and the associated drawings. Although specific terms may be employed herein, they are used in a generic and descriptive sense only and not for purposes of limitation. Accordingly, the present invention is not limited to the specific embodiments illustrated herein, but 15 is limited only by the following claims.